

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

**Chairman:** Mr. Dennis L. Fish, District No. 5

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, was held on **Monday, May 17, 2004**, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Dennis L. Fish, Council Member District No. 5, Chairman; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Council Member District No. 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Council Member District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Council Member District No. 4; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Council Member District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney Jr., Council Member District No. 7; Mr. Steve C. Davis, Council Member District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio; Mrs. Nicole Ewing, Deputy County Attorney; and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk of County Council. Mr. Milton Farley, Council Member District No. 1, was excused from this meeting.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the electronic and print media were duly notified.

*During periods of discussion and/or presentations, minutes are typically condensed and paraphrased.*

Chairman Fish called the meeting to order and stated an Executive Session was not required.

Chairman Fish continued by asking for approval of minutes from a meeting of the Committee on Finance held April 19, 2004.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Council Member Mims and seconded by Council Member Steve Davis to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

**A. Ms. Ginger Hamilton, Delinquent Tax Collector, Re:** Additional funds for department – postage.

In Ms. Ginger Hamilton's absence, Mr. Robbie Metts, Deputy County Supervisor, stated additional funds were needed in Delinquent Tax Department for postage. It is difficult to anticipate the number of delinquent properties from year to year. Postage on the certified/restricted delivery notices is recoupable, as the cost for this is included in the delinquent property tax bills. Initially, \$65,000 in additional funds had been requested,

but that amount has been reduced to \$57,000 for the mailing of approximately 7,200 notices.

It was moved by Council Member Spooner and seconded by Council Member Steve Davis to approve Ms. Hamilton's request for additional funds in the amount of \$57,000 for postage (line item 41508-5388) in the Delinquent Tax Department. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

**B. Consideration prior to First Reading of an ordinance** adopting and enacting a new Code for the **Code of Berkeley County**, South Carolina, providing for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; providing for the manner of amending such code; and providing when such code and this ordinance shall become effective; and other matters related thereto.

Mrs. Ewing, Deputy County Attorney, explained that the County Council's Department and Legal Department had worked together for the past several years updating the actual Code Book. This book contains all Berkeley County ordinances and amendments adopted by Berkeley County Council and enacted since the last Code of Ordinances was published. There were a few changes to some general provisions in the new Code Book, but changes were mostly minor in detail. County Council would have a summary of those changes in the ordinance prior to its Second Reading.

It was moved by Council Member Charles Davis and seconded by Council Member Spooner to approve, prior to First Reading, an ordinance adopting and enacting a new Code for the Code of Berkeley County. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

**C. Review prior to Second Reading of the following:**

**1. Bill No. 04-36, An ordinance** providing appropriations for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005, for Berkeley County**; to provide for levy of taxes on all taxable property in Berkeley County for all County purposes; to provide for the expenditures of said taxes and other revenues coming into the County for the fiscal year.

Supervisor Rozier presented Council with the 2004/2005 budget for Berkeley County. The budgets requested by departments totaled \$45,679,222. The original revenue identified at the beginning of budget preparation was \$35,464,058. This created \$10,215,164 to satisfy the budget, and would have created a tax increase of 23 mills. A 23 mill tax increase would require a 44 percent tax increase for Berkeley County. Cuts were made in the original budget, in addition to finding ways to increase revenue.

Supervisor Rozier continued by stating the budget being presented to Council at this time, the recommended budget, totaled \$41,253,650, with a current revenue projection of \$41,253,650. No dollars would be needed to balance the budget, so there

would be no tax increase. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row that there has not been a tax increase. Supervisor Rozier compared the 2003/2004 budget with the recommended 2004/2005 budget, as follows:

- 2003/04 budget was \$38,315,703; 2004/05 is \$41,253,650; change of 7.7% increase
- 2004/05 budget includes: 5 percent merit increase for employees; grade changes totaling \$965,000; 31 new positions (addition of two libraries, additional employees at new County office building in maintenance and custodial; increased health insurance and workman compensation premiums).
- **Predicted** millage rate change from 52.5 in 2003/04 to 44.5 in 2004/05, creates a 15 percent decrease in millage rates or an 8 mill decrease (due to reassessments).

Supervisor Rozier concluded by stating the 2004/05 budget was very tight. Each department was cut somewhat; departments did not receive all that was asked for. There would be no tax increase required to balance the 2004/05 recommended budget. This year would mark the fourth time in the last 13 years that Berkeley County has reduced millage, twice due to reassessment, and twice due to a reduction. Each year there has been a carryover, where funds from a fund balance are carried over to the next year's budget to balance that budget. Once the budget is approved, it is determined how not to spend those dollars, thus creating a carryover for the next year. Examples include:

- 1991/92, carryover of \$1,078,000 + \$552,386 not spent and added to fund balance.
- 1992/93, carryover of \$294,000 + \$805,164 not spent and added to fund balance.
- For seven years, carryover from fund balance was not spent; expenditures were tightened, and monies were added to the fund balance.
- 1998/99, carryover of \$1,950,000, but spent \$1,272,000.
- Carryover was spent in only three of twelve years.

*(Copy of information presented by Supervisor Rozier is attached hereto and by this reference is made a part hereof.)*

It was moved by Council Member Charles Davis and seconded by Council Member Spooner to approve, prior to Second Reading, **Bill No. 04-36**. This motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

**2. Bill No. 04-37, An ordinance** providing for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for the **Devon Forest Special Tax District** operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Devon Forest Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

It was moved by Council Member Spooner and seconded by Council Member Charles Davis to approve, prior to Second Reading, **Bill No. 04-37**. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

**3. Bill No. 04-38, An ordinance** providing for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for the **Pimlico Special Tax District** operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Pimlico Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

It was moved by Council Member Spooner and seconded by Council Member Crosby to approve, prior to Second Reading, **Bill No. 04-38**. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

**4. Bill No. 04-39**, An ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for the **Sangaree Special Tax District** operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Sangaree Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

It was moved by Council Member Charles Davis and seconded by Council Member Mims to approve, prior to Second Reading, **Bill No. 04-39**. This motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

**5. Bill No. 04-40**, An ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for the **Tall Pines Special Tax District** operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Tall Pines Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

It was moved by Council Member Charles Davis and seconded by Council Member Spooner to approve, prior to Second Reading, **Bill No. 04-40**. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

**6. Bill No. 04-41**, An ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for the operational budget of the **Berkeley County Special Fire Tax District** within the unincorporated portions of Berkeley County; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Special Fire Tax District during the fiscal year.

It was moved by Council Member Spooner and seconded by Council Member Pinckney to approve, prior to Second Reading, **Bill No. 04-41**. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

**D. Review prior to Third Reading of Bill No. 04-23**, An ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 03-06-38, adopted June 16, 2003, to provide for **supplemental appropriations** and allocations thereof within the 2003-2004 budget for Berkeley County; and other matters relating thereto.

It was moved by Council Member Crosby and seconded by Council Member Spooner to approve, prior to Third Reading, **Bill No. 04-23**. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

## **E. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **1. Committee on Public Works and Purchasing**

**Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Chairman**

a. Additional funds for Maintenance Garage

Chairman Pinckney reported that the Committee on Public Works and Purchasing met on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

On recommendation of the Committee, Chairman Pinckney moved to approve the transfer of \$1,000 from Contingency to the Maintenance Garage (line item gasoline & oil). (No Second Required)

The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. (That concluded Chairman Pinckney's report.)

Without objection from the Committee, Supervisor Rozier stated there was an emergency purchase that Council needed to be made aware of. Earlier this day, it was necessary for the County to purchase \$16,000 worth of UPS batteries for the Court House, Annex and County Administration Building. These batteries are used as a back-up with gasoline generators when electrical power is lost, to avoid losing computer data.

It was moved by Council Member Crosby and seconded by Council Member Spooner to adjourn the Committee on Finance Meeting. This motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

---

Date Approved

**FINANCE**  
**(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)**

Chairman: Mr. Dennis L. Fish, District No. 5

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1  
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2  
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3  
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4  
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6  
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., District No. 7  
Mr. Steve C. Davis, District No. 8  
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on **Monday May 17, 2004**, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, following the meeting of the Committee on Land Use at **6:00 pm**.

**AGENDA**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss matters relating to the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body and the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim and other matters covered by the attorney – client privilege.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**April 19, 2004**

**A. Ms. Ginger Hamilton, Delinquent Tax Collector**, Re: Additional funds for department – postage.

**B. Consideration** prior to **First reading** of an ordinance adopting and enacting a new Code for the **Code of Berkeley County**, South Carolina, providing for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; providing for the manner of amending such code; and providing when such code and this ordinance shall become effective; and others matters related thereto.

**C. Review** prior to **Second Reading** of the following:

**1. Bill No. 04-36**, An ordinance providing appropriations for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for **Berkeley County**; to provide for levy of taxes on all taxable property in Berkeley County for all county purposes; to provide for the expenditures of said taxes and other revenues coming into the county for the fiscal year

2. **Bill No. 04-37**, An **ordinance** providing for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for the **Devon Forest Special Tax District** operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Devon Forest Special Tax district during the fiscal year

3. **Bill No. 04-38**, An **ordinance** providing for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for the **Pimlico Special Tax District** operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Pimlico Special Tax District during the fiscal year

4. **Bill No. 04-39**, An **ordinance** providing for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for the **Sangaree Special Tax District** operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Sangaree Special Tax District during the fiscal year

5. **Bill No. 04-40**, An **ordinance** providing for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for the **Tall Pines Special Tax District** operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Tall Pines Special Tax District during the fiscal year

6. **Bill No. 04-41**, An **ordinance** providing for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005**, for the operational budget of the **Berkeley County Special Fire Tax District** within the unincorporated portions of Berkeley County; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Special Fire Tax District during the fiscal year

D. **Review prior to Third Reading of Bill No. 04-23**, An **ordinance** to amend Ordinance No. 03-06-38, adopted June 16, 2003, to provide for **supplemental appropriations** and allocations thereof within the 2003-2004 budget for Berkeley County; and other matters relating thereto.

E. **REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:**

1. **Committee on Public Works and Purchasing**  
**Council Member Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Chairman**
  - a. Additional funds for Maintenance Garage.

May 12, 2004  
S/Barbara B. Austin  
Clerk of County Council